

Case 2828

***Podisus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 (Insecta, Heteroptera): proposed conservation of *P. vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the name *Podisus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 in its accustomed usage for a genus of predatory stink-bugs important as biological control agents. Kirkaldy's (1909) designation of *P. vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 as the type species is preceded by Schouteden's (1907) designation of *P. punctipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851. The earlier designation would make *Podisus* a junior subjective synonym of *Apateticus* Dallas, 1851, and the genus as universally understood would be replaced by *Telepta* Stål, 1860, rejected as a junior synonym of *Podisus* for over 120 years.

1. In July 1851, Dallas (p. 105) established the genus *Apateticus* for a single new species *halys* (p. 105). This specific name is a synonym of the older name *Halys lineolatus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840 (p. 69) giving the valid combination *Apateticus lineolatus* (Herrich-Schaeffer).

2. In November 1851, Herrich-Schaeffer (p. 296) established the genus *Podisus* for some previously described but unspecified species, plus five new ones which he named: *punctipennis* (p. 338), which is a junior synonym of *Apateticus lineolatus* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840); *strigipes* (p. 338), which has been transferred to *Perillus* Stål, 1862; *vittipennis* (p. 339); *pallipes* (p. 339); *albiseptus* (p. 339). No type species was designated.

3. Stål (1860, p. 10) proposed the nominal genus *Telepta* to contain six species but did not fix any of them as type species. Subsequently, Kirkaldy (1909, p. xviii) designated *T. crassimargo* Stål, 1860 as the type species of *Telepta*. Stål (1870, p. 49) himself placed *Telepta* in synonymy with *Podisus*.

4. Distant (1902, p. 254) stated that *lineolatus* was the type species of *Podisus*. However, this was not a valid type species designation under the modern Code, since *lineolatus* was not one of the nominal species originally included by Herrich-Schaeffer when he proposed *Podisus* and Distant did not cite the synonymy of *lineolatus* with any of the originally included nominal species.

5. Schouteden (1907, p. 70), presumably relying on the type species selection by Distant (1902) but not actually citing him, stated: 'D'ailleurs le type de *Podisus* et de *Apateticus* est le même et il fallait déjà nommer à nouveau le sous-genre *Podisus*

s. str. des auteurs antérieurs'. Schouteden noted that 'le type du genre (et sous-genre) *Apateticus* est *A. lineolatus* Herrich-Schaeffer (*Halys* Dallas)...'. In the list of species Schouteden cited the synonymy of *lineolatus* with *punctipennis* thereby, under Article 69a(v) of the Code, validly designating *punctipennis* as the type of *Podisus*. Schouteden recognized that *Podisus* thus became a synonym of the older name *Apateticus* Dallas, having synonymous type species. Schouteden (1907, p. 68) proposed a new genus *Eupodisus* to hold those species previously placed under *Podisus*, listing *Eupodisus* as a subgenus of *Apateticus* and placing *Telepta* Stål as a synonym of his new name. Schouteden (p. 70) designated *Apateticus modestus* Dallas, 1851 as type species of *Eupodisus*.

6. Kirkaldy (1909, p. xxviii) rejected Schouteden's arrangement and selected *Podisus vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer as type species of *Podisus*. Kirkaldy (p. 18) placed *Eupodisus* and *Telepta* as synonyms of *Podisus*, listing *Podisus* as a subgenus of *Apateticus*.

7. All subsequent workers have considered *Podisus* and *Apateticus* as separate genera. Since Schouteden (1907) and Kirkaldy (1909), none of the species listed by them under the genus-group names *Podisus* or *Eupodisus* has appeared in the primary literature in combination with *Apateticus*, *Telepta*, *Eupodisus* or any genus-group name other than *Podisus*. In one instance the combination *Apateticus (Eupodisus) mellipes* (Bergroth, 1891) appeared in a book on Brazilian insects (Costa-Lima, 1940, p. 49). This single usage may be sufficient to prevent *Eupodisus* Schouteden, 1907 from being thought of as an unused name, but it is still a junior subjective synonym of *Telepta* Stål, 1860. The generic name *Podisus* is well established in the ecological literature since it contains several ecologically important species. For example, McPherson (1980) provided a bibliography of 74 published articles on the prey of just one species, *Podisus maculiventris* Say, 1831. A list of a further 20 recent publications on *Podisus* is held by the Commission Secretariat.

8. If Schouteden's validation of Distant's selection of *Apateticus lineolatus* (= *Podisus punctipennis*) is allowed to stand, then the genus long known as *Podisus* would be called *Telepta*, a name which has not been used since it was proposed in 1860 and put into synonymy by Stål in 1870.

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Podisus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 prior to the designation by Kirkaldy (1909) of *Podisus vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Podisus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Kirkaldy (1909) *Podisus vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vittipennis* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851, as published in the binomen *Podisus vittipennis* (specific name of the type species of *Podisus* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851).

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